

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-11, 14-17, and 20-24 are pending. Claims 12, 13, 18, and 19 were previously cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, and 8 are amended. Claims 1 and 20 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

1. Request for Withdrawal of Finality of Office Action

As argued below, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections in the Office Action based under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) based on primary reference Houser et al. was not proper. Houser et al. fail to teach or suggest the combination of elements/steps as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 20 as amended on February 18, 2005.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action dated May 13, 2005, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) made by the Examiner were not proper, and the amendments to the claims in this Amendment automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal.

This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has cited additional references in this Final Office Action.

(1) Drawings

Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings file on February 18, 2005.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 2, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicant has amended claims 2, 7 and 8 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 9-11, 14-17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Houser et al. (U.S.5,606,609);

claims 5, 6, and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houser et al in view of Schwab et al. (U.S. 2002/0019777); and

claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (U.S. 6,246,778) in view of Houser et al, and further in view of Smith et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Arguments Regarding Independent Claims 1 and 20

The Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent claims 1 and 20 as filed on February 18, 2005, sets forth a novel combination of elements/steps not taught or suggest by the primary reference, Houser et al., cite by the Examiner.

The Examiner will note that minor changes are made herein to independent claim 1, merely to clarify the claimed subject matter, and no changes are made to independent claim 20.

As set forth in independent claim 1 of the present invention, includes *inter alia*

the first computer systems comprising:

reference characteristic value extraction means for extracting a reference characteristic value from a copy of electronic data attached with a reference characteristic value obtained from original electronic data, the copied electronic data attached with the reference characteristic value being generated by and transmitted from the second computer system and received by the first computer;

comparison subject characteristic value calculating means for calculating a comparison subject characteristic value from the copied electronic data and recopied electronic data from the original electronic data; and

determining means for determining authenticity of the copied electronic data and the recopied electronic data by comparing the reference characteristic value and the comparison subject characteristic value.

In addition, independent claim 20, as previously presented, includes the steps *inter alia*

providing a first computer system at a customer and a second computer system at the manufacturer, the first and the second computer systems being in communication with each other;

calculating a reference characteristic value in the first computer system from graphic information of the original electronic drawing data in advance and outputting the original electronic drawing data affixed with a reference characteristic value from the first computer system to the second computer system of the manufacturer; and

determining in the first computer system whether or not one or both of the copied electronic drawing data received from the second computer system and recopied electronic drawing data have been altered by comparing the reference characteristic value with the comparison object original value.

As can be clearly understood from claims 1 and 20 of the present invention,

the first computer system (the management computer system) outputs the original electronic drawing data affixed with a reference characteristic value from the first computer system to the second computer system,

the second computer system (the managed computer system) generates the copied electronic data attached with a reference characteristic value and transmits it back to the first computer, and

the first computer system (the management computer system) calculates a comparison subject characteristic value from the copied electronic data and recopied electronic data from the original electronic data; and then determines authenticity of the copied electronic data

and the recopied electronic data by comparing the reference characteristic value and the comparison subject characteristic value.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the computer 120 of Houser et al. embeds the security information constitutes a managed computer (the second computer). The document may be transmitted to a recipient on another computer 140, the “management computer system” (the first computer).

However, the Applicant respectfully submits that Houser et al. fail to suggest the subject matter set forth in each of claim 1 and 20. As best understood by the Applicant, and disclosed in column 7, lines 61-65, the Houser et al. merely disclose the computer 140 receiving the document from computer 120, after computer 120 embeds the security objects into the document.

However, this is completely different from the invention set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 20, in which the

first computer system (the management computer system) outputs the original electronic drawing data affixed with a reference characteristic value from the first computer system to the second computer system,

the second computer system (the managed computer system) generates the copied electronic data attached with a reference characteristic value and transmits it back to the first computer, and

the first computer system (the management computer system) calculates a comparison subject characteristic value from the copied electronic data and recopied electronic data from

the original electronic data; and then determines authenticity of the copied electronic data and the recopied electronic data by comparing the reference characteristic value and the comparison subject characteristic value.

Neither computer 120 nor computer 140 of Houser et al. include each and every element (or perform each and every step) as set forth in claims 1 and 20 of the present invention.

While Moore, Schwab et al., and Smith et al. were not used to reject either of claims 1 and 20, a careful review of these document indicates that no combination of Moore, Schwab et al., and Smith et al. can make up for the deficiencies of Houser et al.

At least for the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements/method steps as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 20 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Houser et al. Moore, Schwab et al., and Smith et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 3, 7, 8, are amended to place them in better form.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

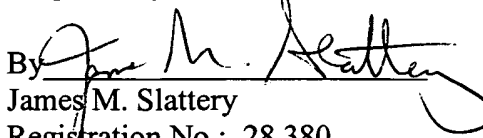
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

James M. Slattery

Registration No.: 28,380

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd.

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant